IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Specification as follows.

Page 16, please replace paragraph 2 with the following:

Assuming no faulty node or fiber conditions, a UWB signal shown on line 202 enters the band splitter 220, where the in-band and out-band signals are separated. The in-band signals 226 to continue through node 200 are routed to the protection switch 224, amplified by EDFAs, and directed to the band combiner 240. An optical protection switch 242 may be used to bridge the in-band signal 261 at the output of the OADM/OXC 230 if desired. Meanwhile, the out-band signals 228 from the band splitter 220 to continue through the node 200 are routed directly to the OADM/OXC 230 and directed to the band combiner 240. The band combiner 240 recombines the in-band signal 261 and out-band ~~signals~~ signal 263 so that an aggregate of the in-band and out-band signals can be transmitted as the UWB signal shown on line 204.

Page 16, please replace paragraph 3 with the following:

Operation is analogous for UWB signals input on line 206 to the band splitter 222. The in-band signals 229 are routed to the protection switch 244, amplified by EDFAs, and directed to the band combiner 250. An optical protection switch 252 may be used to bridge the in-band signal 260 at the output of the OADM/OXC 230 if desired. The out-band signals 229 from the band splitter 222 are routed directly to the OADM/OXC 230 and directed to the band combiner 250, which recombines the in-band signals 260 and the

out-band signals 262 so that an aggregate of the in-band and out-band signals can be transmitted as the UWB signal shown on line 208.